Statement by H.E. Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to the UN at the General Assembly Meeting on Palestine, New York, 06 August 2014.

Mr. President, although delayed, yet I am thankful to PGA for arranging this briefing on the situation in Gaza.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf the Non-Aligned Movement. In addition, we would like to make a brief statement highlighting our national position and expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people in their just cause.

It is indeed with a heavy heart that we speak today on the unspeakable sufferings, death and devastation in Gaza wrought by inhuman, indiscriminate, and brutal Israeli military aggression on the innocent and un-armed Palestinian civilians.

The graphic and disturbing pictures of helpless Palestinians exposed to Israel’s full-scale military onslaught greatly shock our conscience. It is a disgrace that the global leadership failed to stop killing of 1850 Palestinians, mostly civilians including 393 children and 208 women and also 3 Israeli civilians. When unarmed 1.8 m people of Gaza with no regular army, no regular navy, no regular air force, no jets or anti-aircraft guns, were massacred and bombarded by one of the most sophisticated military power, an occupying force, Israel whose responsibility and obligation was to provide safety and security to the people under its occupation, I mean people of Palestine and Gaza, don’t you think our moral and ethical values and our ideals of Human Rights were not only questioned but also UN credibility as well and that of ours.

And more importantly, the advocates who so vociferously champion the right of Israel to self-defend often forget that the poor and un-armed Palestinians have also rights to live, not in the shadow of lurking death and perpetual occupation but as normal human beings with equal dignity, freedom and security like all Israelis, and like all free people of the world. That right is being daily trampled by the Israeli forces. We want to ask this question: how long would the international community deliberately keep their eyes, ears and mouths shut and refuse to see, hear, speak and take serious preventive actions on the tragedy daily unfolded in Palestine. However, we are thankful to the UN Human Rights Commissioner and UN Representative in Gaza as they termed such massacre as ‘Crime Against Humanity’ and may we, therefore, ask the UN to start processing and bringing the perpetrators to face justice? Can we echo ‘genocide, never again’?

Mr. President,

We strongly disagree with those trying to contend Israel’s aggression as a legitimate reaction to Hamas activities. The rockets fired at Israeli civilian population by Hamas are not remotely comparable to the 1,000-pound iron fragmentation bombs that have been dropped in large
numbers and other sophisticated military machines used on crowded Palestinian neighborhoods causing widespread death and destruction.

We therefore condemn, and demand action by the UN against the disproportionate use of force on unarmed civilian population in violation of the Geneva Convention and international human rights and humanitarian laws.

**Mr. President,**

We urge the Security Council to take action to end the hostilities immediately and permanently. The Security Council has a Charter responsibility to secure peace by ending aggression and addressing threat to peace.

It is a pity that during the past 66 years, the Council has often vacillated to take concrete actions, even when its own resolutions were blatantly flouted, that could meaningfully contribute to a fair resolution of the issue.

Finally we believe that both the State of Israel and the State of Palestine have rights to live in peace and stability, as well as to live in security and dignity. Such could only be achieved by implementing the 2-state solution on the basis of the parameters rooted in the relevant UN resolutions, the Madrid Principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap. Therefore, it is time to withdraw all sorts of occupation, all embargoes and blockades and guarantee the Palestinians a life of dignity, security and freedom. Let us end the modern day Apartheid in Palestine, let us end cleansing of Palestinian people, let us stop repeat of genocide and collective punishment in the sacred land of Palestine. Let us start dialogue and mediation with earnestness as friends, not as enemies.

In spite of the horrors and killings, my dear colleagues, we are hopeful, one day Palestine and Israel will live side-by-side in security and peace. The world has abolished dreadful slavery and ended Apartheid in South Africa. The violence in the sacred land of Palestine would certainly also come to an end. To this end, we need to work together and if we work together, I have no doubt that the mighty powers of the oppressor is sure to crumble.

I thank you, Mr. President.